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FROM: Helsinki

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 256, November 18, 10 p.m.

NIACT

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The Finnish Government issued a communique this evening of which following is informal English translation.

Verbatim Text. Unnecessary words deleted.

Government discussed today Soviet note of October 30, 1961, to Finland and subsequent exchange of views between Finland and Soviet Union concerning situation. Government considered it appropriate propose to President of Republic, as view of government, that because of situation he travel to consult with Chairman of Council of Ministers of Soviet Union, N. S. Khrushchev. After President of Republic had accepted proposal, Foreign Minister Karjalainen invited Soviet Ambassador Zakharov to his office and asked him to transit to his government proposal of Finnish Government concerning Finnish President's trip. End verbatim text.

In background talk after communique was read aloud to journalists in Finnish and English, Foreign Office spokesman Jakobson said that President Kekkonen would go Soviet Union accompanied by Foreign Minister and parliamentary group including representatives all parties; that Presidential party was not DEL as suggested by Kuznetson to Wuori but "group"; and that this idea of Presidential trip was not suggested by Soviets but is Finns

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own idea. In reply to question as to whether "Kekkonen would seek out Khrushchev in Tashkent", spokesman said he expected Kekkonen would not have to do that adding, "he is after all President". He said however, that Kekkonen would hold himself ready to go on 48 hours notice. Replying to question as to whether Finnish group would include military personnel, spokesman said it has not been considered.

GULFER

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